

Remarks

Claims 1-13 and 15-30 are currently pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 27 have been amended. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on December 16, 2004. During the interview, deficiencies in the Williams reference relative to subject matter of the present invention were discussed. Namely, it was discussed how Williams provides a client application that has a user selectable option to change formats to allow the user to select a format for a particular data object that is a format which is compatible with a server in communication with the client. It was further discussed how the client application must provide a default format since the list from the server may contain no formats or may contain only the format that is already currently in use such that the server is not automatically providing the format to the client application for the data object. It was further discussed how the present invention may automatically provide the single permissible formatting rule to the remote office from the main office and that the rule is automatically implemented such that the data is correctly formatted for the main office prior to it being sent without requiring the user to intervene and download and apply the single permissible formatting standard.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keyser in view of Williams. Claims 5 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keyser in view of Williams and further in view of Schaefer (US Pat 5,826,268). Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keyser in view of Williams and further in view of Hamala (US Pat 5,345,586). Claims 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keyser in view of Williams and further in view of Spencer (US Pat 6,356,909). Claims 27-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Lipner (US Pat 5,553,304) in view of Williams. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action has rejected claim 1, 10, and 19 by stating that Keyser discloses a most of the elements but fails to disclose a formatting standard rule and the formatting standard rule being sent to the remote office before data transmission. However, the Office Action states that Williams teaches a rule that comprises an only formatting standard rule used by the main office and the only formatting standard rule being sent to the remote office before the remote office sends data such that the data is first correctly formatted to be compatible with the format used by the main office. The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to combine Keyser with Williams to render these claims unpatentable. Claim 27 was rejected by inserting Lipner in place of Keyser and applying Williams in the same manner.

The independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 27 now recite that a single permissible formatting standard is automatically sent to the remote office prior to transferring data to the main office and that the data is formatted automatically and correctly according to the single permissible formatting standard prior transferring data to the main office. As a representative example, claim 1 recites, in part, wherein for each type of data transfer from the remote office to the main office there is an access rule that comprises a single permissible formatting standard rule used by the main office for data transfers of that type, and wherein the formatting standard rule for the data transfer of that type is automatically sent to the remote office before the remote office sends entered data to the main office such that the entered data is automatically correctly formatted to be compatible with the single permissible format used by the main office for the data transfer of that type prior to the entered data being transferred to the main office.

Thus, no user intervention is required to cause the single permissible formatting standard to be sent from the main office to the remote office and no user intervention is required to cause the data to be automatically and correctly formatted to be compatible with the single permissible formatting standard prior to the data being sent to the main office. None of the cited references disclose such automatic transfer and implementation of formatting standard rules.

In particular, the Williams reference falls short because Williams only discloses a manual process for downloading formatting rules from a server to a client. Specifically, Williams at column 13 discloses that the client application provides a change format option that may be selected by the user to obtain the formatting rules of the server so that the user may then select the desired formatting rule from the list. It is evident that the client application applies a default formatting rule in Williams rather than the server providing some initial format prior to the user selecting the change format option. This is evident because as stated in column 14, the list of formatting rules may be empty where the server has no formatting rules for the particular data object or may include only the formatting rule that is already in use by the client application. Thus, if the client application has a data object in a particular format, yet it is later found that the server has no formatting rule for the object or only has the format already being applied, then the client application must have had a default format already applied to the data object. Therefore, because the server does not provide the initial format automatically, and because the change format process is entirely manual, Williams fails to disclose that the formatting standard rule is automatically sent and automatically applied to data at the remote office prior to the data being sent to the main office.

None of the cited references including Williams teach the recitations noted above. Therefore, claims 1, 10, 19, and 27 are allowable over the cited combination of references for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 2-9, 11-13, 15-18, 20-26, and 28-30 depend from allowable base claims and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, one or more of these dependent claims recite additional features that are patentable over the cited references, such as claim 9 which introduces multiple remote offices.

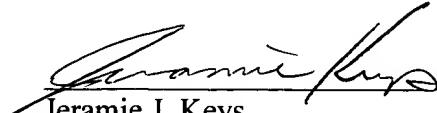
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-13 and 15-30 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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